

The Mysterious Murky Water

and **THE POACHER PROBLEM**



"The Mysterious Murky Water and the Poacher Problem" is a Living Graphic Novel created by students in Mrs. Shari Cottingham's 3rd grade class at Tipton Community School, Tipton, Indiana in May 2010.

Through a grant from the Tippecanoe Arts Federation Artist in Residence program, funded by JP Morgan Chase, a "Living Graphic Novel" collaborative workshop was presented by Steven Koehler of Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette, Craig Martin of Purdue University Galleries and Morgan Reitmeyer of Words on the Go. Living Graphic Novel offers the opportunity for students to develop short stories and illustrate them through the development of live "scenes" using actors, painted sets and framing devices, in the style of graphic novels or comic books. The project emphasizes literacy, writing skills, creativity and artistic design.

Mrs. Cottingham's students have each studied a species of endangered animal throughout the 2009-2010 school year, which provided the impetus for this story. In the span of five classroom visits, with the assistance of the Living Graphic Novel team, the class imagined a story involving each of their 19 endangered animals, wrote and storyboarded the narrative, painted set backdrops, costumed, staged and photographed "frames" from their story. These images were later developed in Photoshop into a graphic novel-style presentation, complete with narrative boxes and text balloons by Morgan Reitmeyer.

It is with great pride that we share with you the story of 19 endangered animals, "The Mysterious Murky Water and the Poacher Problem."

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The Mysterious Murky Water and THE POACHER PROBLEM



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It was an oddly murky day.
The sun was out, the sky was clear,
but for some reason the
water didn't look
right to Greta Green Sea Turtle.
She was taking her morning swim
with Gary the Grey Humpbacked Whale...





OH NO!



NO! OIL! This
is terrible!

Oil is
really bad!





We could move to Australia... but it's a long swim.

Greta and Gary went to find Mandy the Manatee, who was always sensible.

I think that we should get the landies in on this. It will affect them too.

You should swim up river Mandy. This is just so sad... who could want this much death?.



Don't worry! I know who to tell!



Perry Python! I need your help! It's so terrible...

Whatever it is I'll help. I owe you!

Mandy told Perry all about the leaking pipe. Perry took it to his buddies...



It will be bad for us all!

Terrible!

Yuck yuck!

*GASP

Perry went to Rita the Ring Tailed Lemur, Queenie*, Gerald the Golden Lion Tamarin.



A meeting has been called. We'll tell everyone!

*Queenie Queen Ann Alexandria Butterfly

Even though the oil was unthinkable, everyone was confident it would be okay. There seemed to be a lot of trouble for the endangered animals these days.







I'm glad
the
meeting is
happening.

Me too! Hey,
Where did
Gerald go?
Did he stop to
rest?

The 19 endangered Animals had come up with a plan a year earlier. They had a system where the bigger predators would watch the borders, and smaller animals would find them food (like tofu...). It had been working wonders on the populations. None of them had gone extinct! Everyone had even been able to find a mate, except for Conway Condor, who seemed to be extra rare. Still, P.A.C.T (Protect Against Cantankerous Trackers) had been a success, at least until the last month. Now it was getting worse and worse. Meanwhile, Gerald had fallen into the wrong hands...



HELP!
Anyone!
HELP!





We'll have to
get Gerald
and fix the oil
fast... dusk is
falling...





Everything went wild. When things calmed down it was dark, and they were short several friends. Now Perry, Rita, Chet the Cheetah, and Conway! The animals that were left continued their meeting in hushed voices where Betty Black Rhino took the lead.



*this will not stand!
We have to save them.



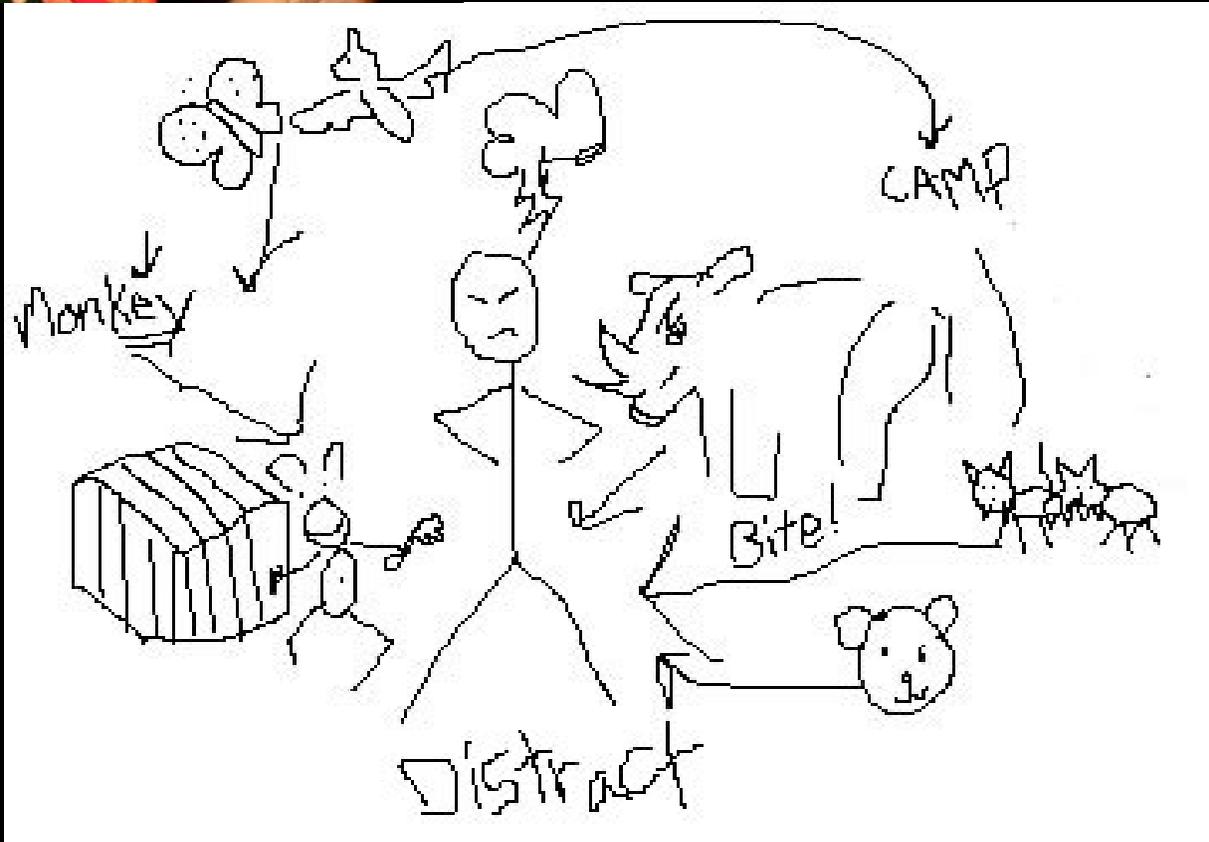
We need to know where they are...



Gilly Gray Bat and I can fly and look for them. Will that help?



Queenie and Gilly, you find them. Then a bunch of us will distract the poacher while Chris Chimpanzee gets the lock. Once Chris springs them we'll beat feet out of there and get together to make a plan for the oil...
Meanwhile...





How is every-
one? Feeling
nice and cosy?



Conway! What's going on!
Get us out of here! Hey...
why do you have that nice
big dinner? What's going
on here?



He must be the spy!?

This is worse than I thought.



At least I'm not alone now.

oh no! not him!

Just then the poacher returned....



It was a terrible night. For a while it seemed like the poacher would make coats (and shoes) of all of them.

But then, just as the night was at its very darkest, the radar powers of Gilly came in handy...



EEEEEP!
Better
fly!

Hey! You
shouldn't be
here!



The chase was long, and frightening. Gilly and Queenie went high, and Conway went higher. His wings were big, and it was only a matter of time before they got caught. But who would rescue the others?





I've got you!
Now you will pay
for all my pain!
Now I will be the
only one, and you
other 18 will be
lunch!

After taking a wrong turn Queenie and Gilly were trapped between a rock and hard place. They were trapped. However, there was one trick up Queenie's sleeve...



But Conway,
why?

Since P.A.C.T.
I barely have any
food. Between the
oil spill I caused and
the poacher I invited
there will be tons of
dead animals to eat.

So once Conway started ranting Queenie rubbed some fruit on her poisonous wings...



And once I am well fed I will be able to fly far away to find a mate! You all have babies and soon I too will be--



And POP! Right into his babbling beak!



Conway was out **COLD**. He would be out for 5-7 hours, and have quite a headache (well deserved) when he woke.

Queenie and Gilly flew as fast as their tired wings would carry them back to the last of the 19 endangered animals. Then they guided them right to the camp of the poacher.

Once there everything went according to plan...

and as Sonya Snow Leopard, Sylvester

Siberian Tiger, Florence the Florida Panther, Betty and Gabby Gray Wolf were distracting, Gabby had a good idea.

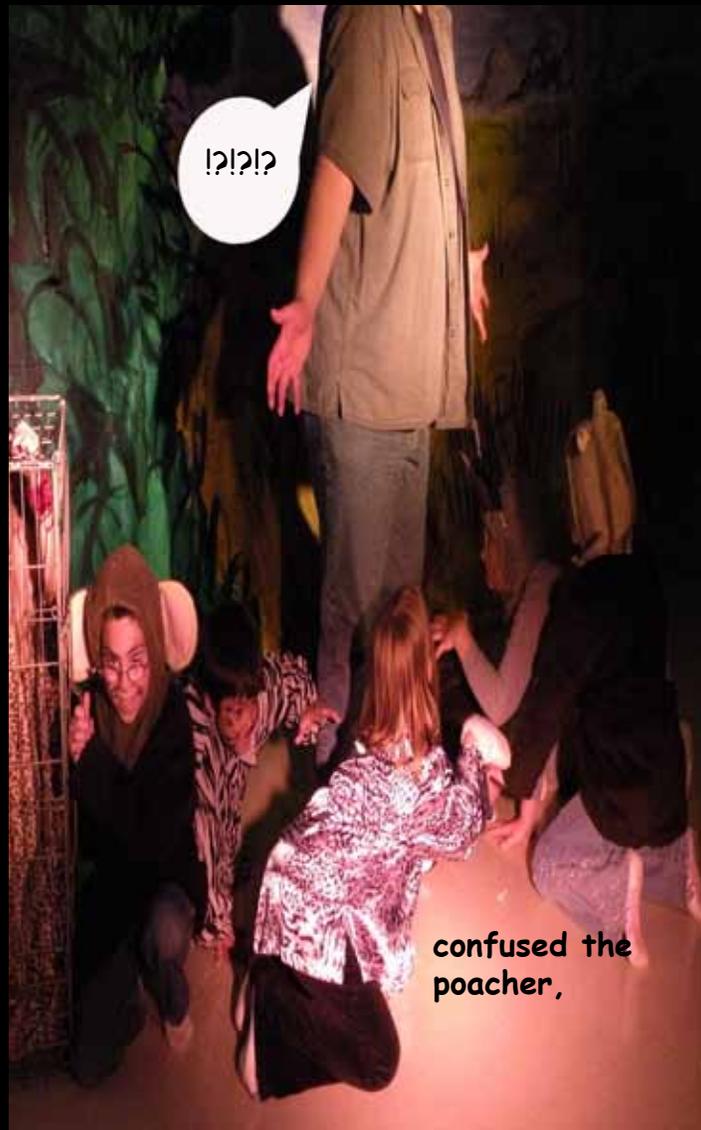
In camp they found
their friends,



stormed the
poacher,



!?!?!?



confused the
poacher,





won their freedom,





and trapped the poacher so he could do no more harm.



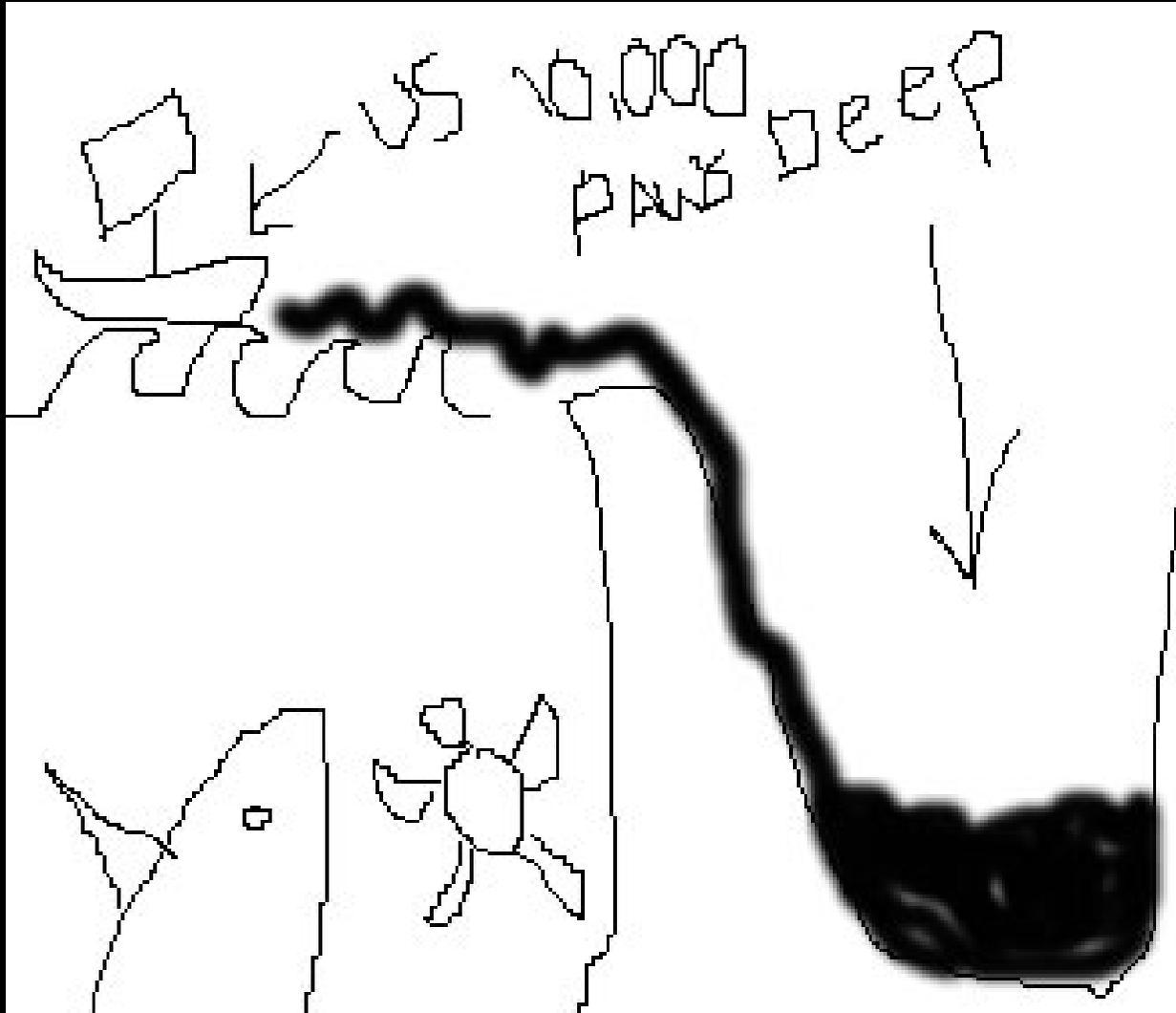


Free!
Free!
Thanks
everyone!

That's one
solved
poacher
problem!

Now lets
save the
sea!
but how?

They came up with a plan that involved boat building and digging and it was just crazy enough to work...





Bertram the Bear was all about raiding the camp of the trapped tracker, and he was the first to start using his new shovel to start digging. After all, 10,000 paws is pretty deep, even for 18 excellent endangered animals.





They dug and dug. Kara the Komodo Dragon, who had honed her digging skills with her nest, lead the charge when Bertram got tired. They worked through the hottest part of the day, always aware that elsewhere their sea-bound friends might not be fairing well at all...





10,000 P.

Just as the team was trying
to climb out of their
excellent hole, their ocean
friends Greta, Gary, and
Mandy were considering
moving down under...
But Patty the Panda
was on the job!



Boat building, as everyone knows, is a bear art...







Perry, Patty, Kara, Bertrom, Chris, and Betty climbed onto the finished boat and were off...



Ewww. This
oil is thicker
then any of
us thought.
Gross.





Looks like it! Its going into the hole!

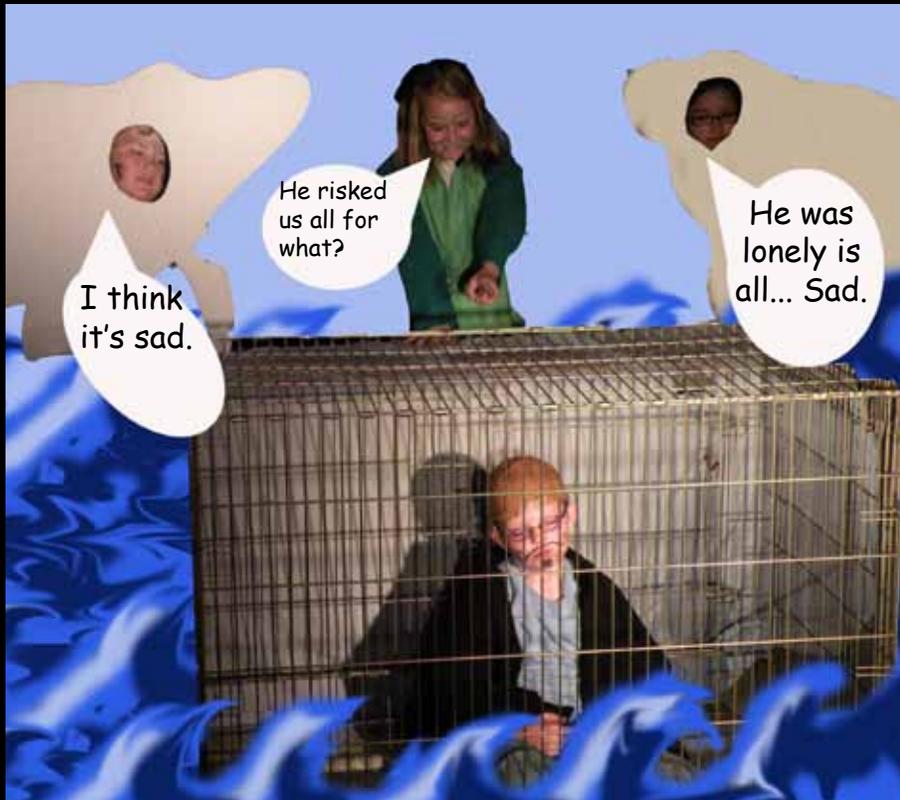
Is it working? Chris!? Is it!

A young man and woman are looking at a display. The man is on the left, wearing a grey jacket, and the woman is on the right, wearing a dark jacket and a headscarf. They are both looking towards the right. A speech bubble is positioned above them.

This is the
last of it.
Hurray!

A close-up shot of a person's hands holding a shovel with a pink handle. The shovel is being used to dig in a display. The background shows tall grasses and a brownish ground.

Bear put an end to the
murky water with his
shovel.



The 18 endangered animals felt bad for Conway, but they also wanted him to understand how nice a good, clean sea is.



Where am I? Hello? I'm hungry. Anyone? My head feels like I just had a butterfly cocktail? Hello... Water? WHAT? NOOOOOO!



No
No!



help.





I'm
sorry...

In a few days Conway
washed up on shore...
and lucky for the
animals of that area
the cage hit the beach
right next to a Zoo...
but lucky for Conway,
the zoo had a lady
Condor named Candy.
The 18 Endangered
animals are slowly
working on getting off
the endangered animal
list, and now their area
is clean, quiet, oil and
poacher free.

The End.

"The Mysterious Murky Water and the Poacher Problem"

the Living Graphic Novel

created by students in Mrs. Shari Cottingham's 3rd grade class at
Tipton Community School, Tipton, Indiana in May 2010

When 19 endangered animals are confronted with a threat to their ocean habitat and to their companions, they must band together to solve the question of "The Mysterious Murky Water and the Poacher Problem."

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